

Explosives Expert Declares Blast Was No Accident

Investigation Eliminates Li- censed Wagons of Two Concerns, Only Ones With Right to Haul Dynamite

An investigation into all deliveries of dynamite made here recently was begun immediately after the explosion yesterday by the Bureau of Fire Prevention of the Fire Department.

Twenty inspectors were detailed to the work of checking up deliveries and the movements of dynamite wagons under Dr. William F. Doyle, chief of the bureau, and John F. Dixon, chief inspector of combustibles.

The inquiry resulted in eliminating the E. L. du Pont de Nemours Company's truck from any possible responsibility for the explosion. At the same time the only other legitimate dealer licensed to deliver the explosive was eliminated.

It resulted also in the statement being made that it was unlikely that a surreptitious shipment or delivery was the cause, as this practice does not obtain, owing to the stringency of the regulations governing the handling of explosives.

Explosives Trucks Bonded
The Dupont Company is licensed and bonded to deliver dynamite with an electric truck. This was in its garage at the time of the explosion and had not made a delivery below Sixteenth Street yesterday, according to both officials of the company and the word of inspectors. The vehicle which may have contained the explosive and was destroyed was horse drawn.

The only one other dealer in dynamite who also is licensed to sell and deliver the explosive in New York City is Carl H. Dittmar, of 108 West 130th Street. He operates two horse-drawn vehicles. Neither of these had been

below Forty-eighth Street during the day, inspectors were told.

The Du Pont Company has two trucks, but only one is operated at a time, as only one is bonded. The other is kept for emergency reasons and is out of commission at present, it was said at the company's office in the Equitable Building.

C. C. Moore, an official of the company, said the truck had made no deliveries below Sixteenth Street during the day and was in its garage at the time of the blast.

Chief Inspector Dixon said it was unlikely that the explosion could have been caused by a surreptitious shipment of dynamite, as contractors must make a sworn statement daily of the amount on hand. Each stick of dynamite is numbered and the magazines are inspected daily.

Check Kept on Explosives
All blasting is done by licensed men and a check is kept upon the explosives. There is no such thing as an attempt to evade the laws governing their sale and delivery, according to Dixon.

Dixon, who is the Fire Department expert on explosives, said that if all of the experts in the country were brought here, in his opinion, not even three of them would be able to agree as to the form of explosive used and the quantity.

"I do not think it was an accident," he said, after his inspection of the scene.

The bureau turned over window sash weights and other pieces of metal found to the Police Department.

\$1,000 New York Gift Handed To Italian Quake Sufferers

ROME, Sept. 16.—Robert Underwood Johnson, the American Ambassador, called on Foreign Minister Sforza today and expressed deep regret in the name of the American government for the earthquake disaster, with its heavy loss of property and life, which had befallen Italy. The ambassador turned over to the minister a gift of \$1,000 sent by a private individual of New York City as a contribution toward the relief of the sufferers.

Count Sforza thanked the ambassador warmly for his visit, and expressed the appreciation of the Italian government for the sympathy and interest of the American nation.

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